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Poster on *The Yellow Wallpaper*

For my creative project I chose to do a poster on *The Yellow Wallpaper*. The reason I decided to do a poster is because I wanted to do my project on something with a yellow background in order to portray the yellow wallpaper that the narrator focused most of her attention on while she was locked away in her room. Also, the narrator was picturing many things in her mind while she was staring at the wallpaper so that correlates with why I decided that pictures would be good being connected to the yellow poster board. The pictures are all things that relate to what was going through the narrators mind while she was looking at the yellow wallpaper in her room.

Furthermore, the pictures I chose to use all have symbolic significance to the story in one way or another. I included a picture of a house and a diagram of a man and woman separated by a wall to signify how during the story, a woman’s place was considered to be in the home while a man’s place was out in the world working. Followed by these pictures is a picture of a male doctor and this shows how since the narrator’s husband John was a man and a doctor, he thought he was right about her condition and he didn’t take into consideration his wife’s thoughts or feelings on the situation. That’s why I also decided to show a woman with tape over her mouth that says silence kills. Since the narrator is a woman, she has no voice. She is in a society where only men’s voices are heard and where men are taken more seriously. Since she has no voice, she has lost her identity. This can relate to why the narrator has no name in the story. Also, the reason the tape says silence kills is because when someone loses their identity, nobody knows they exist and therefore they are dead in many people’s eyes. Another picture I chose that goes along with silence is the symbol of no writing. The narrator is forbidden from writing. Writing is how she expresses herself but her husband wants to keep her from using her mind. That’s why I chose the image that states that creativity is the greatest rebellion in existence. The narrator goes against her husband and continues to write and try to use her imagination. Her creativity is a huge part of who she is and she doesn’t allow anyone to take that away from her. I chose to include a picture of a woman behind bars because what the narrator saw behind the wallpaper was a woman who was shaking the wallpaper and trying to get free. Also, the narrator herself felt like she was locked away because her window had bars on them and her bed was bolted to the floor. She can’t go outside when she wants and she is separated from her family so it’s like she’s in prison. Furthermore, what she sees in the wallpaper is a reflection of herself so the wallpaper can be viewed as having the same qualities as a mirror. That’s why I decided to have a picture of a woman looking at herself in a mirror. Some other pictures I chose to put on the poster board were a woman sleeping and a woman looking like she is trying to pull her hair out. This relates to the narrator because she is ordered to stay in bed all day and sleep but that eventually doesn’t solve anything and she becomes crazy. I had a picture of darkness to show how the narrator will always live in darkness. She has to hide the fact that she writes and she has to keep her feelings to herself. She doesn’t seem to have a bright future ahead of her. Not only this, but I included a picture of a garden because things grow in a garden but the narrator is kept from growing and developing. She doesn’t have the same possibilities that nature does. This also correlates with my picture of a window because the narrator can only look outside through the glass. She can get a glimpse of the outside world but she will never be a part of it. She will always be separated from reality. The last picture I chose was the word yellow. This color is an important part of the story. Yellow can have so many positive connotations, but in the story it is negative. The color yellow can mean sickness which correlates to the narrator being mentally ill. Also, the color yellow can symbolize weakness and women were considered to be the weaker sex in society during the time of the story.

Finally the message that I think my project conveys to its viewer is that the narrator doesn’t just go crazy from the yellow wallpaper. There are reasons that she sees what she does in the wallpaper and it reflects on how women had less of a voice in society. They couldn’t express themselves and their thoughts and feelings were often ignored by men. Also, since the narrator was being contained in the home, this goes along with society’s view of a woman’s place being in the home. This poster helps exemplify how the story is not just about a crazy woman who sees random things in the wallpaper. The story and what she saw has an underlining message of how it’s not healthy for men to control and run women’s lives. Women should be taken more seriously in society and it’s all about equality. The narrator wants to be free from the expected traditional gender roles and she wants all women in society to have that opportunity as well. My poster shows how complex this short story is and it illustrates how symbolic the yellow wallpaper is of society as a whole.